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Replies to questions concerning General Sadao ARAKI propounded by Lawrence J. McLeanus, submitted by Major-General F. S. G. Piggott, Military Attaché to the British Embassy, Tokyo, 1921-1926 and 1936-1939.

1. Since he was the Conducting Officer of Foreign Attachés at the annual Grand Maneuvres of the Japanese Army in Shikoku in the Autumn of 1922. He was then a Colonel.
2. I was not in Japan at the dates in question.
3. Between 1936 and 1939 I had very many conversations with General ARAKI, and the Manchurian situation was no doubt often discussed.
4. The Manchurian situation during the period mentioned was not the live issue that it was in 1931-1932, as the State of Manchukuo was firmly established, and recognized by some countries; Great Britain had sent an Economic Mission there in 1934.
 - 1.A. No such policy was advocated; consolidation and defense were his theme.
 - B. The "affair" no longer existed. He regretted the occasional frontier incidents with the Russians, and the fact that Great Britain and the United States had not recognized the new State.
 - C. No personal knowledge, as four or five years had elapsed since the "incident" had been settled, when I was appointed Military Attaché in 1936.
 - D. He had greater belief in friendship with Great Britain and the United States than in membership of the League of Nations. He appeared to have little liking for foreign nations, most of which he did not feel worthy friends for Japan, -- other than the first-named two.
 - E. No personal knowledge.
 - F. No personal knowledge. From what I have heard from many good judges his speeches were based on a type of mystical patriotism, which made him the idol of the young officers. No doubt unfriendly critics would term some of his utterances flamboyant or even aggressive; but national psychology must be taken into account in appraising their true value.
 - PURL: <http://www.legal-tools.org/doc/lbcac9>
 - G. As a member of the Cabinet his political activities (an expression which would appear to require closer definition) were naturally considerable.
 - H. The Minister of War in Japan has great influence, and had direct access to the Emperor. As I was not in touch officially with Japanese affairs at this time I find it difficult to reply to this question.

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- 2.A. Generally speaking I should say that General ARAKI was far too intelligent to advocate World Domination, but sincerely felt that Japanese influence should be paramount in East Asia; in other words he felt that Japan was the strongest Power in that region, and was better able to keep order than any other. If this is "aggression" then he was an exponent of it; but it was Japanese influence rather than territory that he wished to expand, after the Manchurian Affair had been settled.
- B. If this means "did he advocate an attack on, say, Australia or Indo China", I have not heard of such an address.
5. A. This was an entirely new role for a retired General, but he brought to his task much imagination, and liberal ideas; the word benevolent perhaps would not be out of place. He took a personal part in arranging for a youth organization which was visiting Germany (I believe at Hitler's invitation) to include England in their tour. The British Council should have some record of this; the year was 1938.
- B. I have often heard him denounce communism; it might almost be called an obsession. I cannot recall his having spoken very much about fascism; if he had done so he probably approved of it elsewhere as an antidote to communism, but not as suitable to Japan, which had a policy of its own, unique and hard to explain to foreigners.
- C. There is no anti-semitism in Japan, and I should think the action described not unlikely, though I cannot recall hearing of it. (It may be remarked that there is a school of thought among certain students of Japan ascribing to them the position of one of the Lost Ten Tribes.)
- D. I have never heard his discuss this question.
6. I should say he was tolerant of all. His mysticism would naturally make him very interested in the subject. One of his favorite analogies was that God made the nations of the world in the pattern of a garden, containing trees, shrubs, flowers, and weeds; he was fond of identifying certain nations with all four categories, -- Great Britain and the United States being in the first. It would be invidious to specify the others, especially the fourth.
7. Yes. Sir Robert Craigie and Captain H. D. Kennedy knew him, the latter very well indeed. The late Colonel E. A. H. James, my predecessor as Military Attaché, (1932-1936) knew him very well and had a high opinion of him. No doubt the two former will speak for themselves.
- A. Often.
- B. This question refers apparently to Japanese friends of his. His reputation is hard to describe accu-

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rately, as his numerous utterances covered so wide a field that it was out of the question for everyone to agree with everything he said all the time. My summing up of my talk with other Japanese is that General ARAKI stood for a Pax Japanica, was a sincere believer in honesty, and was a reliable mirror of Japanese mentality; it was his misfortune that as an exponent of this mentality and of his country's policy and destiny his hyperbole assumed an importance greater than the hard facts beneath in the ears of foreign listeners, for whom his speeches had been (often indifferently) translated.

(signed) F. S. G. Piggott
N. G.

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荒木貞夫大將ニ關シローレンス・J・マクマナス氏ヨリ提出ノ質問
 ニ對シ一九二二一一九二六、及ビ一九三六一一九三九在東京英國大使被附武官タリシ F. S. G. ピゴット少將ノ回答

- 1
- 一、荒木ハ一九二二年秋四國ニ於テ行ハレタル恒例陸軍大演習ニ於テ外國武官接待官ヲ勤メタカラデアル當時ノ階級ハ大佐ニアツタ
- 二、オ尋ネノ時ニハ私ハ日本ニ居リマゼンデシタ
- 三、一九三六年一一九三九年ノ間ニハ私ハ荒木大將ト非常ニ屢々會談シテ居リマスカラ滿洲問題モ勿論度々論議サレマシタ
- 四、御質問當時ニハ滿洲問題ハ、當面ノ重要問題デハ無ク、一九三一一一九三二年ニ問題トナリマシタ。トイフノハ此ノ時ニ滿洲國ハ確實ニ建國サレ一部ノ國々ニヨツテ承認セラレタモノデ一九三四年ニハ英國モ經濟使節ヲ派遣致シマシタ
- (イ) ソノヤウナ方針ガ唱導サレタ事ハアリマゼン。國結ト國防トガ彼ノ平生ノ主張デアリマシタ
- (ロ) 所謂事變(Affair)モウ存在シテ居マゼンデシタ。彼ハ時々發生シタソ聯トノ國境事件ヲ遺憾ニ思ヒ、又英國及米國ガ此ノ新シイ國家ヲ承認シナイ事ヲ遺憾ニ思ツテ居マシタ」

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ハ私ガ一九三六年武官ニ任命サレタ時ニハ既ニ「事變」解決以來四年乃至五年経過シテ居マシタカラ、個人的ナ記憶ハアリマゼン

(二)彼ハ英國乃日米國トノ友好關係ヲ主唱シ又國際聯盟員タル事ヲ主唱シマシタ

彼ハ外國ハ好キデハ無イ様子デ右ニ舉ゲタ二國ノ外、外國ノ大部分ハ日本ト友好國タル價值ハ無イト考ヘテ居マシタ

(ホ)承知シテ居リマゼン

ヘ承知シテ居リマゼン。私ガ立派ナ判断力ヲ持ツテキル人達ノ多クカラ聞イタ處ニヨルト荒木ノ講演ハ一種ノ神秘的ナ愛國主義ニ根本ヲ置イタモノデ此ノ爲メニハ彼ハ青年將校ノ宗拜ノ的トナツテキタノデス勿論彼ニ好意ヲ持タナイ批評家ハ彼ノ言ノ一部分ヲ指シテ煽動的或ハ侵略的デアルトサヘ云フカモ知レマゼン。然シ之等ノ演説ノ本當ノ價值ヲ見究メル爲メニハ日本人トシテノ國民的心理狀態ヲ考慮ニ入レナケレバナリマゼン

(ト)内閣々僚トシテノ彼ノ政治的活動ハ當然相當ノモノデシタ。コノ場合ノ政治的活動ト云フ事ハモット限定シタ定義ヲ必要トスル表現デス(チ)日本政府ノ陸相ノ勢力ハ偉大デアリ陸相ハ陛下ニ直接上奏ガ出來マス其ノ當時ハ私ハ公的ニハ日本ノ問題ト關聯ヲ持ツテ居リマゼンデシタカ

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(1) ラ此ノ質問ニハオ答へハ出來兼ネマス
 一般的ニ云ツテ荒木大將ハ世界支配ナドヲ主唱スルノニハ余リニ總明テ
 ス。ガ日本ノ勢力ガ東亞ニ於テ最高デナケレバナラナイト云フ事ハ眞面
 目ニ考ヘテ居マシタ。換言スレバ日本ハ東亞ニ於テハ最強國デアリ、何

處ノ國ヨリモ秩序ヲ維持スル力ガアルト考ヘテキマシタ若シ之レヲ稱シ
 テ「侵略」ト呼ブナラ彼ハ其ノ主唱者デアリマシタ。併シ滿洲問題落着
 後ニ彼ガ其ノ伸張ヲ希望シタノハ日本ノ勢力デアツテ領土デアリマセ
 ン。

(口) 御質問ガ彼ガタトヘバ濠洲印度支那ノセウナ國ノ攻略ヲ主唱シタカト云
 フ意味デシタラ私ハソンナ言葉ヲ聞イタ事ヘアリマセン。

五(1) 之レハ退役シタ陸軍將官ニ取ツテハ全然新規ナ役廻リデシタ。併シ彼ハ
 此ノ任務ニ想像力ト自由思想ヲ加ヘマシタ仁徳ト云フ語句ヲ用ヒテモ見
 當違ヒデハ無イト思ヒマス。

『彼ハ訪獨ノ日本青少年團へ確カヒトラーノ招待ニヨルモノダツタト思
 ヒマスニ其ノ旅程中ニ英國ヲ包含サセヤウトシテ個人的ニ骨ヲ折リマ
 シタ英國大使館ニハ何カ此ノ時ノ記録ガアル筈デス。年ハ一九三八年デ
 ス。

(口) 私ハ彼ガ屢々共產主義ヲ非難シテ居ルノヲ聞キマシタ。邊際概念ヲ持ツ

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テ居タト云ツテモ良イ程デス。フアシズムニ就テハ余リ云ツタノヲ國イ
 タ記憶ハアリマセん若シ彼ガソウ云フ事ヲ言ツテ居ルトシタナラバ、
 ソレハ何處カ外ノ處デ、之レヲ共産主義ノ對毒剤ト云フ意味デ承認シタ
 モノデセウガ獨自ノ團体、無比ニシテ外國人ニ説明シ難イ團体ヲ持ツ日
 本ニ適切ナモノトシテ言ツタノデハ無イデセウ

(二) 日本ニハ反猶太思想ト云フモノハアリマセんデシタ御質問ノヤウナ行爲
 ハ聞イタ記憶ハアリマセんガアリ得ナイ事ハナカツタト思ヒマス。(一)
 書キ加ヘマスナラバ日本ニハ猶太人ヲ指シテ滅亡セル十民族中ノ一ツニ
 數ヘル學者ノ一派ガアリマス

(二) 彼ガ此ノ問題ヲ論議スルノフ聞イタ事ハアリマセん
 六、彼ハ最モ寛大ナ態度ヲ採ツテキタト云ツテ差支ヘナイト思ヒマス。彼ハ其
 ノ神祕主義カラ必然的ニ此ノ問題ニ興味ヲ持チマシタ。彼ガ好ンデ話シタ
 論へ話ノ一つハ神様ガ世界ノ國々ヲ庭園ノ形態ニ創ツタ即チ樹木モ灌木モ
 花モ雜草モ其ノ中ニ含ンデキルト云フノデス。彼ハ世界中ノ國々ヲ四ツノ
 等級ニ分ケテドレカヘ當テハ人テ見ルノガ好キデシタ英國ト米國トハ第一
 モ不快ヲ醸ス事ダカラ止シマス。

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セ「然リ、ロバート・クレギー卿モ M.D.ケネディー大尉モ彼ヲ知ツテ居マシタ。後者ヘケネディーハ特ニ良ク知ツテキマシタ。私ノ武官トシテノ前任者故 E.A.H.ジエームス大佐ヘ一九三二一九三六一ハ非常ニ良ク彼ヲ知ツテキテ高ク買ツテ居マシタ。勿論前ニ舉ゲタ兩者ハ各自夫々彼ノ事話スデヤウ」

(イ) 騰々
 (ロ) 此ノ御質問ハ恐ラク日本人間ノ友人ノ事ト思ヒマス。彼ノ澤山ノ演説ハ非常ニ廣ク各方面ニ亘ツテ居マシタカラ彼ガ常ニ言ツタ事全部ニツイテ多勢ノ人ガイツモ贊意ヲ表シタト云フ事ハアリ得ナイ事デ從ツテ其ウ云フ人達ノ間ニ於ケル彼ノ評判ヲ正確ニ述ベル事ハ困難デス
 「私ガ日本人ト話ヲシテ得タ處ヲ綜合シテ見ルト荒木大將ハ「日本ノ力ニヨリテ平和ヲ齋ス」主義一カラ正道ヲ信條トスル人デアリ、日本人ノ精神状態ヲ如實ニ反映スル鏡デアリマシタ。彼ガ此ノ日本人精神状態ノ代表者デアリ、國家ノ施策乃至ハ國運ヲ代表シテ表現シテキタ爲メニ彼ノ誇張シタ表現ガ外國人達ノ耳ニ翻譯サレテヘ而モ屢々無關心ニ翻譯サレテ一達シタ時ニ、其ノ表現ノ底ニ流ル、困難ナ事實ガ、事實以上ノ重大サヲ帶ビテ外國人ニ考ヘラレタ事ヘ彼ノ不幸デアツタル

F.O.S.G. ピゴット署名